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*'Contrary to my ice princess image, I do have a heart.'*

PAMELA SMART, in interview from prison

## Smart speaks, in sorrow and in anger



Pamela Smart during her trial.

GLOBE STAFF FILE PHOTO

By Bob Hohler  
GLOBE STAFF

GOFFSTOWN, N.H. — Pamela Smart said yesterday that she had little doubt about how her sensational accomplice-to-murder trial would end.

"I thought there were two options: I would be found not guilty or there would be a hung jury," Smart said in her first interview since a jury convicted her eight days ago of manipulating her former teen-age lover into killing her 24-year-old husband, Gregory, a week before their first anniversary. "I never conceived this would become a reality."

Smart's reality — a sentence of life without parole at the New Hampshire State Prison for Women — has sent her into "a state of shock," she said by telephone

from a prison cellblock. "I feel like I'm in Russia."

Lashing out at, among others, the judge, the jury, the profiteers and the pundits who dubbed her "the ice princess," Smart said her conviction in Rockingham County Superior Court has shaken her faith in the criminal justice system, compromised her health and caused her to contemplate suicide.

"I just want to ask every person in America who truly believes in their heart that I got a fair trial to pretend for just one second that they were in my shoes and my circumstances, then ask themselves if they still think it was fair," she said during the 40-minute interview.

Smart, 23, the former media director for the Winnacunnet School District in Hampton, became the fo-  
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# Pamela Smart speaks from prison, in sorrow and in anger

## ■ SMART

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cus of intense, international media coverage during a 14-day trial in which prosecutors presented a lurid account of love, sex and fatal betrayal as they convinced a jury that Smart, seduced William Flynn, then a 15-year-old sophomore at Winnacunnet High School, and repeatedly used promises of love and threats of rejection to lure him into executing her plot to kill her husband last May 1 in the Smarts' Derry condominium.

"I feel like a victim of this brutal media blitz," said Smart, who has maintained her innocence since the moment she returned from a school board meeting to discover her husband dead in their doorway.

"Because of all the media attention, the public's opinion of me was one of guilt," she said. "The jurors came from that public, and to say the media didn't at least have some kind of subliminal effect on them is the most preposterous notion I have ever heard. The fact that they were not sequestered right from the start blows me away," she said, referring to Judge Douglas Gray's controversial decision to wait until the day after deliberations had begun to sequester the jury.

Smart, an honors graduate of Pinkerton Academy in Derry and Florida State University, is about to enter her ninth month in a cell on the prison's top-security tier, where she has been held without bail.

Fiercely criticized by columnists who portrayed her as a cold-hearted seductress who cared more about her dog and her reputation than her husband, Smart said she responded to a written request from the Globe for an interview "because I can't sit here and not say anything any longer."

"I don't sleep at night, I don't eat anything and sometimes I don't even want to be alive," she said. "I've thought about killing myself some nights. Other nights I've laid in bed and just prayed I would die in my sleep."

But each time she thinks of dying, she said, she considers her family, her friends and her desire to deprive her opponents of "the victory of killing myself." She said she is also compelled by her quest to expose both the legal and social injustices she said she has suffered.

Echoing her lawyers, Paul Twohey and Mark Sisti, Smart said she will appeal her convictions on being an accomplice to first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder and witness tampering on, among other grounds, the judge's refusal to grant a change of venue before the trial or to sequester the jury earlier than he did.

"If I was the judge's daughter, he'd be going crazy to make sure I got a change of venue and a sequestered jury," Smart said. "But because that's not the way it is, it's easy for everybody to look back and say, 'Justice has prevailed.'"

She also criticized Gray for telling jurors soon after the verdict that he thought Clint Eastwood should play him in the movie version of Smart's case.

"I don't know what absurdity would cause somebody to comment on something like that," Smart said. "That's just an indication of how sensational and biased this whole story has become. Everybody's making movies and books, and it makes me sick."

In an interview earlier yesterday, Gray said he made the remark, which was published in a juror's account of the deliberations that appeared Tuesday in the Boston Globe, in the trial's tense aftermath. He said he had just thanked the jurors and warned them that they would "probably be assailed by the media and contacted by movie companies."

A juror then made "the first relaxed statement" after the trial, Gray said, asking him in jest who he thought would play him in the movie.

"That's when the Clint Eastwood remark came up," he said. "It was made simply to relax them and give them a bit of humor. Jurors are up-



Pamela Smart

GLOBE STAFF FILE PHOTO

tight" after such major trials, he said.

Smart also said she had read reports that jurors may have been biased by their sympathy for Flynn, despite Gray's instructions not to allow sympathy for anyone to prejudice the verdict. Flynn had sobbed on the witness stand and as he knelt before the jury to reenact the crime, testifying about how his love for Smart had prompted him to ambush her husband, put a revolver to his head and say, "God, forgive me," before pulling the trigger.

"When Bill Flynn cried, I felt bad for him, too," Smart said. "You'd have to be a rock not to feel bad for him. But the facts remain the same. It was Bill Flynn, by his own admission, who put a gun to Gregg's head

and ended his life. Gregg was a person who had dreams and goals. Now his life is gone, and for somebody to take that away, that's a bigger issue than whether he cried on the witness stand."

Flynn, now 17, and two accomplices — Patrick Randall, 17, and Vance Lattime Jr., 18 — faced first-degree murder charges, punishable by mandatory life prison terms, when they were arrested last June. All three pleaded guilty in January to second-degree murder charges and agreed to testify against Smart in exchange for lighter sentences. Flynn and Randall each agreed to sentences of 40 years to life, with 12 years deferred for good behavior. Lattime agreed to a sentence of 30 years to life, with 18 deferred for good behavior.

## 1 of 2 women serving life

Sixteen-year-old Cecelia Pierce, Smart's former confidant turned police informant, faces no charges, despite testimony that she knew about the murder plot and helped Flynn try to obtain a gun before the slaying.

Smart, who is due in court again next week to face charges that she tried to hire an inmate to kill Pierce, is one of only two women in New Hampshire serving sentences of life without parole. The other is Susan Cook, formerly Susan McLaughlin, who helped her ex-husband, former Hampton police officer Robert McLaughlin, murder their neighbor in Hampton in 1988.

Smart, a former beachgoer whose outdoor activity is now limited to a blacktop prison yard, said she has received 400 letters of support since the trial from people who, like her, "can't believe Cecelia hasn't been arrested, can't believe the kids have lighter sentences than I do and can't believe the sentence I received, considering even Charles Manson has a chance for parole."

Smart said, too, that she was disappointed by the reaction of her late husband's parents to her conviction.

"I felt my heart break in a thou-

sand pieces when I knew my parents had to sit there and hear Gregg's parents rejoicing" at the verdict, she said.

Smart said she was also perplexed by the joyful reaction of Gregory's parents later that night, citing reports that they had toasted the verdict with champagne.

"I understand that they lost their son and have been brainwashed by the state of New Hampshire to believe I'm the person responsible for it, but this was no cause for celebration or jubilation," she said. "Even though I'm just as sad and outraged as they are, though, I refuse to let the hatred consume me. It's too self-destructive."

Smart said she was also disappointed that Gregory's mother, Judith Smart, criticized her for reacting strangely to Gregory's murder.

## Defends reaction to slaying

"People asked why I did irrational things, but Mrs. Smart went back into the condo three days after the murder and sat there with a knife waiting for the murderers to come back," Smart said. "Is that crazy? Yes. But does it make perfect sense to me? Yes. I would never condemn her for that, because I know what it feels like."

"I'm sorry if I reacted wrong" to Gregory's death, Smart added, "but nobody gave me the 22-year-old widow's handbook."

And she blasted people who criticized her failure to shed a tear during the highly emotional trial.

"If I had cried the whole time and clasped my hands and done all those theatrical things, everybody would have said I was an actress," said Smart, who majored in media performance in Florida State's communications program. "They would have said I cried crocodile tears, so either way I couldn't have won."

She also said she strongly resented being labeled an "ice princess."

"I've cried almost every single night in here," she said. "I just don't cry in front of other people. I cry by myself. I try to stay strong in the

face of adversity, because I'm afraid if I don't maintain my composure, I'll kill myself."

But her harshest criticism was directed at people she accused of taking an interest in the trial solely for profit or prurience.

Of a potential movie, Smart said, "A person is dead, and making movies about this only glorifies his death and makes a mockery of his life."

Of the comic T-shirts based on the case, she said, "I don't know who's tackier, the people making them or the people buying them."

## Appalled at jokes on case

And of the jokes she has heard on the radio, she said: "People seem to have lost sight that someone is dead. Those kids are in jail, I'm in here with life with no parole, and I don't know how anybody in the world could consider anything about this funny. My heart goes out to all the families involved in this."

She speculated that the intense interest in her case may be due in part to the recession.

"I guess because nobody's feeling good about themselves, they make themselves feel better by pointing a finger at me or by telling themselves that someone is worse off than they are," she said.

Smart, who keeps pictures in her cell of her late husband and her dog, has begun teaching high school math, science and spelling to other inmates, she said. She lectures, prepares lesson plans, reviews worksheets and puts "a hundred percent into it," she said, adding that she has received "perfect tens" on all her work reports by prison administrators.

"I decided I would try to do the best I can while I'm here," Smart said. "I enjoy teaching and using my skills to help other people. Contrary to my ice princess image, I do have a heart."

She earns \$1.50 a week for teaching.

"But knowing me," she joked, "I'll probably get arrested and convicted for tax evasion."